



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
7401 Timberlake Road
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FEMA-1458-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #4
Friday, April 4, 2003

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

12:00 am *Friday*, April 4, 2003, through 12:00 am *Saturday*, April 5, 2003. (*New Information is in italics*)

2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28th for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4th for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 7:00am – 6:00pm, daily.

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb 15-Feb 18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, Waynesboro City. These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

3. WEATHER

Today Partly sunny. Highs 75 to 80. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. **Tonight.** Increasing cloudiness with a chance of showers and thunderstorms late. Lows 50 to 55. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Saturday. Mostly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms through early afternoon. Highs 70 to 75. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Implement strategies to distribute information to affected areas (Community Relations).
- B. Coordinate with FEMA for additional Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA).
- C. Coordinate with FEMA for DRC locations.
- D. Obtain signatures for the FEMA and Commonwealth Agreement.
- E. Complete Disaster Field Office set-up.
- F. Housing strategy coordination.
- G. Mitigation strategy coordination.
- H. Conduct classes for selected DFO staff.
- I. Establish training component and identify Training Officer for DFO.
- J. Establish a drug and alcohol free environment at disaster field facilities.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**A. Individual Assistance (IA):**

- *Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC): Reviewing applicant registration information in the declared jurisdictions in order to determine the need for fixed or mobile Disaster Recovery Centers to assist applicants with questions or registration issues.*
 - *Coordination is being made for the establishment of a fixed Disaster Recovery Center in the Salem/Roanoke area. A site has been recommended by the local emergency management coordinator and a team dispatched from the DFO is investigating the site now.*
 - *Consideration is being given to locating a fixed or mobile DRC in the counties of Tazewell and Wise to serve the needs of the declared jurisdictions in SW Virginia.*
- *IDA Validation /Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA):*
 - *On Wednesday, April 2, we contacted the Emergency Management Coordinators for non-designated jurisdictions. The new information warranted further contact with the following jurisdictions: the counties of **Bland, Lee, Pittsylvania, Augusta, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Roanoke Co.-Vinton, Shenandoah, Warren, Madison, and the cities of Danville and Winchester.** As such, on Thursday, April 3, we contacted each jurisdiction to notify them of the Commonwealth's plans to verify their reported damages. Each EMC was provided a description of actions to take in preparation for a visit by a State Representative. All State Representatives have been contacted and are currently coordinating their site visits. We expect their reports by Monday, April 7.*
 - *The State Fire Marshall's Office has agreed to assist with the PDAs for Individual Assistance. Training is scheduled for 1300 hours, Sunday, April 6, 2003.*

B. Public Assistance (PA):

- *State and FEMA PA team conducting a kick-off meeting with the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority on April 4.*
- *Beginning to set-up kick-off meetings with 23 applicants*

- *Working with FEMA and NOAA to gather additional snowfall information*
- *Beginning to set up PDA's in the flood area to gather information for possible declaration add-on of 18 jurisdictions are as follows:*

<u><i>VDOT Only</i></u>	<u><i>VDOT & Locality</i></u>	<u><i>Local Only</i></u>
<i>Appomattox</i>	<i>Buchanan</i>	<i>Danville</i>
<i>Craig</i>	<i>Dickenson</i>	<i>Martinsville</i>
<i>Floyd</i>	<i>Halifax</i>	<i>Norton</i>
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Wise</i>	<i>Roanoke City</i>
<i>Scott</i>	<i>Montgomery</i>	<i>Salem</i>
<i>Wythe</i>		<i>Mecklenburg Elec Coop</i>
		<i>VA Tech & State Univ.</i>

C. Community Relations (CR):

- *FEMA/State teams have been deployed to the declared localities and briefed on Community Relations activities for the field.*
- *Field officers received training in IHP (Individuals and Households Program).*
- *Field Officers are contacting the Local Emergency Manager in the declared jurisdictions.*
- *Field Officers are distributing the FEMA telephone registration 1-800-621-FEMA.*

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

- *Coordinating mitigation and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) staffing.*
- *Contacted the six Planning District Commissions (PDC) which are actively developing all natural hazards plans.*
- *Final draft Hazard Mitigation Strategy completed by Mitigation section & provided to DSCO for review/comment.*
- *Providing background information & summary for Legislative Section regarding denial of HMGP application for Buchanan County "Hurley Elevation Phase II" project. Senator Warner & Congressman Boucher have received inquiries and will be briefed by legislative liaison staff.*
- *Set up appointments with local government staffs regarding:*

- * *HMGP Success Stories*
- * *HMGP Mitigation Potential Projects*
- * *HMGP Compliance Visits to: City of Norton*
Montgomery Co
Russell Co

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

- *Coordinated FEMA radio interview with Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO); sent media alert to radio and television stations in the western portion of the state encouraging them to visit www.fema.gov/radio to hear comments from FCO about disaster.*
- *Continued to work with Individual Assistance on disaster recovery center news release; assisted community relations with flyer indicating the location of the center and teleregistration number.*
- *Continued to draft news releases for future dissemination (topics: first check distribution for housing assistance, add-on counties declared).*
- *Established contact with Farm Services Agency PIO regarding agricultural declarations.*

F. Legislative Liaison:

- *Preparation of database for e-mail distribution of information to state senators and delegates.*

G. Information and Planning:

- *Completed an e-mail listing of local administrators and emergency coordinators for the purpose of electronic mailing of Situation Reports (SITREP).*

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April 4, 2003
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Michael M. Cline, SCO